

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080288

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: SCUL, OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: LECTURER EXCHANGE AND IREX EXCHANGES

REF.: MOSCOW 4760 AND 4762

1. DEPARTMENT SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT APPARENT IMMINENT
DEMISE OF 1973-74 LECTURER EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND SERIOUS
DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAVE EMERGED IN IREX EXCHANGES. MHE
REFUSAL FOR ONE MONTH TO MEET WITH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE
TO DISCUSS LECTURER EXCHANGE OR RECEIVE DATA SHEETS FOR
IREX GSE AND SENIOR SCHOLAR NOMINEES IS INEXCUSABLE. MHE
RES PONSE TO APRIL 26 DEMARCHE ON LECTURERS IS UNSATISFAC-
TORY; WEAK ASSURANCES GIVEN BY SEMYONOV RE MEETING APRIL 30
DEADLINE ARE NOT, IN OUR VIEW, LIKELY TO PRODUCE DESIRED
RESULT. WORKING- LEVEL MHE OBSTRUCTIONISM OR BUREAUCRATIC
BUMBLING THREATENS TO JEOPARDIZE ENTIRE RANGE OF US- USSR
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EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES UNDER SECTION VI, PARA. 1

OF AGREEMENT, AND WE BELIEVE SITUATION HAS REACHED POINT REQUIRING HIGH- LEVEL REPRESENTATION AT MFA AS WELL AS MHE. ACCORDINGLY, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS CHARGE' AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY APPROACH MFA AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO SEEK RESOLUTION THESE PROBLEMS. IN ADDITION, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS NALLE APPROACH DEPUTY MINISTER SOFINSKIY AT MHE FOR SAME PURPOSE.

2. CHARGE' AND NALLE MAY WISH DRAW ON FOLLOWING IN DISCUSSIONS AT MFA AND MHE:

A) SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF EXCHANGE PROGRAMS DEPENDS HEAVILY ON OBSERVANCE BY BOTH PARTIES OF TERMS SET FORTH IN ANNEX TO EXCHANGES AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING SCHEDULES FOR DIFFERENT PHASES OF EACH EXCHANGE. USSR, OF COURSE AGREED TO THESE TERMS AT TIME OF CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT LAST APRIL. US UNIVERSITIES, PROFESSORS AND SCHOLARS SIMPLY UNABLE COMMIT HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO PROGRAMS IN WHICH THEIR PARTICIPATION IS RENDERED PROBLEMATIC FOR EXTENDED OR INDEFINITE PERIODS;

B) LECTURER EXCHANGE IS NEW AND IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF BILATERAL EXCHANGES RELATIONSHIP TO WHICH WE ATTACH HIGH PRIORITY. IN RECENT REVIEW TALKS WE REITERATED TO SOVDEL OUR STRONG CONCERN THAT THIS NEW EXCHANGE GET OFF TO GOOD START. MHE BEHAVIOR TO DATE, HOWEVER, HAS LED US TO CONCLUSION THAT THIS CONCERN IS SIMPLY NOT SHARED BY SOVIETS. IN LIGHT OF MHE DEPUTY MINISTER SOFINSKIY' S ASSURANCES TO DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATION ON THIS MATTER DURING RECENT US VISIT, CURRENT DIFFICULTIES EVEN MORE PUZZLING;

C) COLLAPSE OF LECTURER EXCHANGE THIS ACADEMIC YEAR WOULD HAVE SERIOUS ADVERSE IMPACT ON WILLINGNESS OF US UNIVERSITIES TO COOPERATE IN EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES WITH USSR, INCLUDING TENTATIVE PROJECTS PROPOSED BY SOFINSKIY HIMSELF DURING HIS VISIT. ONE US LECTURER, TERENCE LANGENDOEN, HAS NOW FORMALLY WITHDRAWN FROM PRO-

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GRAM, CITING " PERSONAL REASONS".

D) US PRESS HAS DISPLAYED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN LECTURER EXCHANGE; ITS COLLAPSE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE REPORTED, WITH OBVIOUS ADDITIONAL ADVERSE EFFECTS FLOWING THEREFROM;

E) RE IREX PROGRAMS, PROTRACTED AND UNCONSCIONABLE DELAYS IN ACCEPTING DATA SHEETS MAY JEOPARDIZE POSSIBILITY

OF PARTICIPATION OF AMERICAN NOMINEES UNLESS MHE IS ABLE
TAKE RAPID ACTION ON PLACEMENT. IN OUR VIEW, MHE SHOULD
ABSORB THE MONTH WHICH HAS BEEN LOST IN TIME ALLOTTED FOR
PLACEMENT, AND WE WILL EXPECT RESPONSES BASED ON DATES ON
WHICH EMBASSY FIRST ATTEMPTED DELIVER DATA SHEETS. YOU
MAY WISH ADD THAT MHE DELAY IN SUBMITTING SEVEN OF NINE
SOVIET DATA SHEETS FOR SENIOR SCHOLARS FURTHER COMPLICATES
SITUATION. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO TELL SOVIETS THAT WE
PROPOSE TO SUSPEND ACTION ON NINE SOVIET SENIOR SCHOLAR
NOMINEES FOR 1973-74 OR ANY OF 1972-73 NOMINEES STILL
PENDING UNTIL WE ARE SATISFIED WITH MHE PERFORMANCE ON OUR

SENIOR SCHOLAR NOMINEES. THIS INCLUDES THREE PERSONS
(CHETVERIKOV, KOSTYUK AND KOTOV) ABOUT WHOM MHE INQUIRED
AT APRIL 26 MEETING. FYI: WE DO NOT WISH TO TAKE SAME
LINE AT THIS TIME REGARDING 40 GRADUATE STUDENTS, SINCE WE
HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY SATISFIED UNTIL NOW WITH MHE PER-
FORMANCE THIS PART OF EXCHANGE. IN ADDITION, THIS YEAR'S
GROUP OF AMERICAN NOMINEES FOR FIRST TIME INCLUDES RE-
LATIVELY SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF SCHOLARS WISHING TO WORK ON
TOPICS OF CONTEMPORARY INTEREST IN SOCIAL SCIENCES, A
TREND WE WISH TO ENCOURAGE. END FYI.

3. DEPARTMENT (SES) WILL CALL IN SOVIET CULTURAL
COUNSELOR TO SUPPORT EMBASSY DEMARCHES, DRAWING ON POINTS
CITED ABOVE.

4. WE HAVE PASSED TO IREX SUBSTANCE OF REFTELS AND IN-
FORMED THEM THAT WE HAVE REQUESTED EMBASSY TO TAKE ACTION
OUTLINED ABOVE. WE RECOMMENDED THAT IREX DIRECTOR KASSOF
MAKE IMMEDIATE REPRESENTATION BY TELEGRAM TO SOFINSKIY
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AT MHE, AND HE HAS DONE SO.

5. ADVISE RESULTS YOUR DEMARCHES ASAP. ROGERS

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